

# **COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM**

## **TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

July 19, 2002

### **FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS**

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

#### **SOR 2002-6:**

Today's emergency conference call focused on SOR 2002-6 from the Salmon Managers regarding Hungry Horse and Grand Coulee summer operations. Dave Wills, USFWS, said the SOR is based on salmon manager concerns for lower river fish and resident fish concerns in Flathead River. He reviewed the SOR and invited questions and discussion.

Tony Norris said the BOR is not willing to draft Grand Coulee below 1280' due to a Biological Opinion constraint and other local issues. He suggested an alternative operation: release 4 kcfs out of Hungry Horse beginning tomorrow (7/20), ramp up to 6 kcfs for the last two weeks of August, and drop back down to 4 kcfs until Hungry Horse reaches a 3540' elevation. Preliminary SSAR models show that releases could continue close to the end of September. Tony offered that the BOR might delay refill of Banks Lake in September and leave that water (roughly 130 kaf) in the system for use in the lower river. Spokane tribal representatives agreed with Tony that drafting Grand Coulee below 1280' would have negative impacts on cultural resources, fisheries, erosion control and recreation in the area.

Although NMFS preferred the Grand Coulee shaping operation, the agency agreed to the proposal when it was clear that the BOR would not draft Grand Coulee below 1280' in September. Chris Ross noted that flexibility with the Hungry Horse ramp-up is important because of routing issues. He inquired about passing Hungry Horse water released in September through Grand Coulee in September. Idaho agreed to Tony's proposed operation as long as the Banks Lake delay takes place. Montana supported the operation. Shane Scott, Washington, reported that they expect no biological problems with delaying the Banks Lake refill and agreed to the operation. Oregon was not represented.

#### **Action:**

- July 20, 4 kcfs will be released out of Hungry Horse on July 20.
- Tony will present ramping scenarios to TMT at the July 24 meeting, as requested. Hungry Horse will ramp to 6 kcfs for two to three weeks in August.
- Sometime in August or September, Hungry Horse will ramp down to 4 kcfs until 3540' is reached.

- Tony will email the group today or Monday about whether Banks Lake will not be refilled in September, allowing the approximately 130 kaf to be left in the system for the lower river. Banks Lake will refill in October.
- Grand Coulee will not draft below 1280' in August and will target 1283-1285' in September.